

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Donald J. Palmer et al.
Serial No.: 09/685,847
Filed: Oct. 10, 2000
Docket No.: 10003972-1

Title: INTERNET PRINT MANAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD WITH PRINT JOB DISTRIBUTION

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 26, 2005, in which claims 1-9 and 11-40 were rejected. Claims 1-9 and 11-40 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 and 11-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,467,434 in view of Keane et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,650,433.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of managing print services provided by a print provider and includes "presenting the print provider with a print provider interface, including presenting the print provider with input fields for specifying attributes of the print services provided thereby," and "registering the print services provided by the print provider with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface and the network communication link, including specifying the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider with the input fields of the print provider interface."

Independent claim 19 is directed to a system for managing print services provided by a print provider and includes "a print provider interface communicated with the print managing system controller, the print provider interface including input fields for specifying attributes of the print services provided by the print provider," "wherein the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider are specified with the input fields of the print provider interface and the print services provided by the print provider are registered with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface."

Regarding independent claims 1 and 19, the Examiner contends that the Hower, Jr. et al. patent discloses presenting the print provider with a print provider interface, and registering the print services provided by the print provider with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface (Detailed Action, page 2). The Examiner recognizes, however, that the Hower, Jr. et al. patent does not disclose presenting the print provider with input fields for specifying attributes of the print services and specifying the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider with the input fields (Detailed Action, page 3). As such, the Examiner contends that the Keane et al. patent discloses a

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system for managing print jobs wherein the print provider is provided with input fields for specifying attributes of the print services, and specifying the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider with the input fields (Detailed Action, page 3). Thus, regarding independent claims 1 and 19, the Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Hower, Jr. et al. patent in view of the Keane et al. patent to present the print provider with input fields for specifying attributes of the print services, and specify the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider with the input fields (Detailed Action, page 3).

Applicant submits, however, that modifying the Hower, Jr. et al. patent in view of the Keane et al. patent would not result in the present invention. For example, the Keane et al. patent discloses a method for managing print jobs including a server 32 that provides a browser interface for use by people who operate the printing presses ("print operators") such that "[i]nformation about how to set up and perform each of the print runs is provided in a simple format to the print operators through the browser interface" (col. 9, lines 59-64). In addition, the Keane et al. patent discloses that "the operator refers to a browser-based terminal at his work-station, which displays information from the meta file concerning the print run" (col. 18, lines 57-59). The Keane et al. patent, however, does not disclose the browser interface nor the browser-based terminal as presenting the operator with a print provider interface that includes input fields for specifying attributes of the print services, wherein the attributes of the print services provided by the print provider are specified with the input fields of the print provider interface and the print services provided by the print provider are registered with the print managing system controller via the print provider interface. Rather, the browser interface and the browser-based terminal of the Keane et al. patent merely display information about the print runs.

Accordingly, modifying the Hower, Jr. et al. patent in view of the Keane et al. patent would not overcome the shortcomings of the Hower, Jr. et al. patent and, therefore, would not result in the present invention. Thus, Applicant submits that the combination of the Hower, Jr. et al. patent in view of the Keane et al. patent does not teach or suggest a method of managing print services provided by a print provider as claimed in independent claim 1, nor a system for managing print services provided by a print provider as claimed in independent claim 19.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 19 are each patentably distinct from the Hower, Jr. et al. and Keane et al. patents and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18 further define patentably distinct claim 1, and dependent claims 20-40 further define patentably distinct claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18 and dependent claims 20-40 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-9 and 11-40 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-9 and 11-40 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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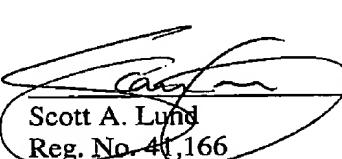
Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Palmer et al.,

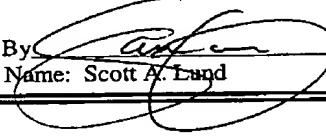
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 23rd day of December, 2005.

By 
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